

REMARKS

Claims 21-44 are pending in this application. The Abstract has been amended to reflect the subject matter contained in the claims. The Specification has been amended to reference the priority claim to parent application no. 09/608,566, now U.S. Patent No. 6,391,955, which issued on May 21, 2002, and those that '955 claimed priority thereto. All prior patents of which the instant application claims priority to have been incorporated by reference in their entirety. Claims 1-20 have been cancelled. New claims 21-43 recite embodiments of the invention fully supported through the priority chain as follows:

Claim	Support
21	Specification: p. 17, line 32 to p. 18, line 8 6,084,016: col. 2, lines 60-61; col. 7, lines 33-35
22	6,084,016: col. 6, lines 48-57
23-27	original claims 3-8
28-29	6,084,016: col. 7, lines 42-46
30	Specification: p. 6, lines 23-27
31	Specification: p. 17, line 32 to p. 18, line 8 6,084,016: col. 6, lines 48-57
32	6,084,016: col. 6, lines 48-57; col. 7, lines 16-20
33	Specification: p. 17, lines 16-20
34	Specification: p. 6, lines 20-22
35	6,084,016: col. 7, lines 42-46
36	Specification: p. 6, lines 23-27
37	original claim 4
38	Specification: p. 17, lines 21-25
39	Specification: p. 26, lines 20-21; p 27, lines 17-23 6,084,016: col. 2, lines 60-61; col. 7, lines 33-35; col. 6, lines 5-22
40-41	6,084,016: col. 6, lines 48-57
42	Specification: p. 11, lines 24-29
43	Specification: p. 17, lines 16-20
44	6,084,016: col. 7, lines 42-46

As no new matter has been added by the amendments herein, Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments at this time.


All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorneys to discuss any issues pertaining to the patentability of the pending claims.

No fees are believed to be due for this amendment. Should any fee be required, however, please charge such fee to Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP Deposit Account No. 195127, Order No. 20002.0236.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:  _____

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APPENDIX A. MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED ABSTRACT

[The present invention is directed to a] A golf ball and [to a] process for forming a golf ball having at least one layer, where the layer is formed of a polymer blend comprising [an] thermoplastic material having a flexural modulus of about 60,000 psi or greater and at least one oxa ester, oxa acid, or combination thereof [a saponified polymer/oxa ester blend, having from about 65 to about 99 parts of at least one saponified polymer and from about 35 to 1 parts of at least one oxa ester, based on 100 parts by weight of the saponified polymer/oxa ester blend. The layer may be foamed or unfoamed, and may form at least a portion of any of the cover, the core, or a mantle layer situated between the cover and the core]. The thermoplastic material may be a high acid acid ionomer or a saponified ionomer.

APPENDIX B. MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following new header and paragraph after the title and before FIELD OF THE INVENTION on page 1:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/608,566, filed June 30, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,391,955, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/215,370, filed December 18, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,121,384, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/978,510, filed November 25, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,869,578, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/560,763, filed November 21, 1995, now abandoned. This application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/225,341, filed January 5, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,084,016, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/828,636, filed March 31, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,856,388, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/482,520, filed June 7, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,616,640. The entire disclosures of these applications are incorporated by reference herein.

APPENDIX C. MARKED UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

21. (New) A golf ball having at least one layer, wherein the layer is formed of a polymer blend comprising:
 - at least one ionomer having a flexural modulus of about 60,000 psi or greater; and
 - at least one oxa ester, oxa acid, or a combination thereof.
22. (New) The golf ball of claim 21, wherein the ionomer comprises about 16 percent to about 35 percent by weight acrylic or methacrylic acid.
23. (New) The golf ball of claim 21, wherein the golf ball has an Atti compression of at least 50 and a coefficient of restitution of at least 0.7.
24. (New) The golf ball of claim 21, wherein the layer has a hardness of at least about 15 Shore A, a flexural modulus of at least about 500 psi, and a specific gravity of at least about 0.7.
25. (New) The golf ball of claim 21, wherein the layer further comprises at least one density adjusting filler.
26. (New) The golf ball of claim 25, wherein the density adjusting filler is a metallic powder, a metallic oxide derivative, or a combination thereof.
27. (New) The golf ball of claim 26, wherein the density adjusting filler comprises titanium, tungsten, tin, copper, or a combination thereof.
28. (New) The golf ball of claim 21, wherein the golf ball comprises a cover formed of a thermoplastic polyurethane, a thermoset polyurethane, a urethane ionomer, a urethane epoxy, or a combination thereof.
29. (New) The golf ball of claim 28, wherein the cover is formed of a thermoplastic polyurethane, a thermoset polyurethane, or a combination thereof.

30. (New) The golf ball of claim 29, wherein the cover has a hardness of about 40 Shore D to about 70 Shore D and a flexural modulus of about 10,000 psi to about 100,000 psi.
31. (New) A golf ball having at least one layer, wherein the layer is formed of a polymer blend comprising:
at least one acid-containing copolymer ionomer component comprising E/X/Y copolymers, wherein E is ethylene, X is a softening comonomer, and Y is acrylic or methacrylic acid, and wherein Y is present in an amount from about 16 percent to about 35 percent by weight of the component; and
at least one oxa ester, oxa acid, or a combination thereof.
32. (New) The golf ball of claim 31, wherein Y is present in an amount from about 18.5 percent to about 21.5 percent by weight of the component.
33. (New) The golf ball of claim 31, wherein the layer is disposed between a core and a cover.
34. (New) The golf ball of claim 33, wherein the layer has a thickness of about 0.02 inches or greater.
35. (New) The golf ball of claim 33, wherein the cover comprises a thermoplastic polyurethane, a thermoset polyurethane, or a combination thereof.
36. (New) The golf ball of claim 33, wherein the cover has a hardness of about 40 Shore D to about 70 Shore D and a flexural modulus of about 10,000 psi to about 100,000 psi.
37. (New) The golf ball of claim 31, wherein the layer further comprises at least one density adjusting filler.
38. (New) The golf ball of claim 33, wherein the core comprises polybutadiene.

39. (New) A golf ball having at least one layer, wherein the layer is formed of a polymer blend comprising:
at least one thermoplastic component having a flexural modulus of about 60,000 psi or greater; and
at least one oxa ester, oxa acid, or a combination thereof.
40. (New) The golf ball of claim 39, wherein the thermoplastic component comprises an acid-containing copolymer ionomer component comprising E/X/Y copolymers, wherein E is ethylene, X is a softening comonomer, and Y is acrylic or methacrylic acid.
41. (New) The golf ball of claim 40, wherein Y is present in an amount from about 16 percent to about 35 percent by weight of the component.
42. (New) The golf ball of claim 39, wherein the thermoplastic component comprises a saponified ionomer.
43. (New) The golf ball of claim 39, wherein the layer is disposed between a core and a cover.
44. (New) The golf ball of claim 43, wherein the cover comprises a thermoplastic polyurethane, a thermoset polyurethane, or a combination thereof.